

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a stable, artificially-sweetened, calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate which comprises forming a stabilized solution of a calcium source comprising calcium chloride and monocalcium phosphate, and at least one of calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate, and one or[[e]] more edible acids in water and subsequently adding an artificial sweetener to the stabilized solution to form the beverage concentrate, wherein the beverage concentrate consists essentially of water, the calcium source, the one or more edible acids, the artificial sweetener and optionally, caffeine, caramel, carbonation, coloring agents or dyes, antifoam, emulsifiers, one or more flavoring compositions, one or more preservatives, tea solids, juices, cloud component, and mineral and non-mineral nutritional supplements.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more edible acids are chosen from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, lactic acid, malic acid, maleic acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, ascorbic acid and mixtures thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the artificial sweetener is chosen from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame potassium, neotame, alitame, sodium saccharin, calcium saccharin, sucralose, sodium cyclamate, calcium cyclamate, neohesperidin, dihydrochalcone, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the artificial sweetener comprises aspartame.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the artificial sweetener comprises aspartame and acesulfame potassium.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the stabilized solution further comprises one or more preservatives dissolved in the solution prior to the addition of the artificial sweetener.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the one or more preservatives is chosen from the group consisting of sodium benzoate, calcium benzoate, potassium benzoate, sodium sorbate, calcium sorbate, potassium sorbate, ascorbic acid, SHMP, EDTA, BHA, BHT, TBHQ, dehydroacetic acid, dimethyldicarbonate, ethoxyquin, heptylparaben, and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the stabilized solution further comprises acid-containing flavoring composition dissolved prior to the addition of the artificial sweetener.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the acid-containing flavoring composition comprises a cola flavor.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the acid-containing flavoring composition comprises a combination of cola flavor and lemon flavor.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the acid-containing flavoring composition comprises a citrus flavor.

13. (Original) A beverage concentrate produced by the method of claim 1.
14. (Original) A full strength beverage produced by dissolving the beverage concentrate of claim 13 with water.
15. (Original) The full strength beverage of claim 14 comprising one part beverage concentrate and five parts water.
16. (Original) The full strength beverage of claim 14, wherein the water comprises carbonated water.
17. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a stable, artificially-sweetened calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate which comprises:
- a) preparing a first solution or dispersion of a calcium source comprising calcium chloride, monocalcium phosphate, and at least one of calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate, and water;
 - b) adding one or more edible acids to the first solution or dispersion to form a second solution wherein the calcium source and one or more edible acids are fully dissolved in solution;
 - c) adding an artificial sweetener to the second solution to form a third solution wherein the calcium source, one or more edible acids and artificial sweetener are fully dissolved in solution; and
 - d) optionally adding additional edible ingredients, thereby forming the beverage concentrate, wherein the beverage concentrate consists essentially of water, the calcium source, the one or more edible acids, the artificial sweetener and optionally, caffeine, caramel, carbonation, coloring agents or dyes, antifoam, emulsifiers, one or more flavoring compositions, one or more preservatives, tea solids, juices, cloud component, and mineral and non-mineral nutritional supplements.
18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the one or more edible acids are chosen from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, lactic acid, malic acid, maleic acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the artificial sweetener is chosen from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame potassium, neotame, alitame, sodium saccharin, calcium saccharin, sucralose, sodium cyclamate, calcium cyclamate, neohesperidin, dihydrochalcone, and mixtures thereof.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the artificial sweetener comprises aspartame.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~21~~¹⁹, wherein the artificial sweetener further comprises ~~aspartame and~~ acesulfame potassium.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising the ~~step of~~ dissolving one or more preservatives in the second solution such that the one or more preservatives, the calcium source ~~one or more calcium salts~~, and the one or more edible acids are fully dissolved in the second solution prior to conducting step (c).

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the preservative is chosen from the group consisting of sodium benzoate, calcium benzoate, potassium benzoate, sodium sorbate, calcium sorbate, potassium sorbate, SHMP, EDTA, BHA, BHT, TBHQ, dehydroacetic acid, ascorbic acid, dimethyldicarbonate, ethoxyquin, heptylparaben, and combinations thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising the ~~step of~~ dissolving one or more acid-containing flavoring compositions in the second

solution such that the one or more acid-containing flavoring compositions, atthe calcium source, and the one or more edible acids are fully dissolved in the second solution prior to conducting step (c).

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the one or more acid-containing flavoring compositions comprises a cola flavor.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the one or more acid-containing flavoring compositions comprises cola flavor and lemon flavor.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the one or more acid-containing flavoring compositions comprises a citrus flavor.

29. (Original) A beverage concentrate produced by the method of claim 17.

30. (Original) A full strength beverage produced by dissolving the beverage concentrate of claim 29 with water.

31. (Original) The full strength beverage of claim 30 comprising one part beverage concentrate and five parts water.

32. (Original) The full strength beverage of claim 31, wherein the water is carbonated water.

33. (Currently Amended) A beverage composition comprising a calcium source comprising calcium chloride, monocalcium phosphate, and at least one of calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate, artificial sweetener, and one or more edible acids which is a stable solution and exhibits effective sweetness, wherein the beverage composition consists essentially of water, the calcium source, the one or more edible

acids, the artificial sweetener and optionally, caffeine, caramel, carbonation, coloring agents or dyes, antifoam, emulsifiers, one or more flavoring compositions, one or more preservatives, tea solids, juices, cloud component, and mineral and non-mineral nutritional supplements.

34. (Currently Amended) The beverage composition of claim 33 further comprising the one or more flavoring compositions, wherein the one or more flavoring compositions comprise a cola flavor.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The beverage composition of claim 33 further comprising the one or more flavoring compositions, wherein the one or more flavoring compositions comprise a fruit flavor.

37. (Currently Amended) The beverage composition of claim 33 further comprising the one or more flavoring compositions, wherein the one or more flavoring compositions comprise a tea flavor.

38. (Currently Amended) A calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a calcium source comprising calcium chloride, monocalcium phosphate, and at least one calcium salt selected from the group consisting of calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate, artificial sweetener, one or more edible acids, water, and optionally, caffeine, caramel, carbonation, coloring agents or dyes, antifoam, emulsifiers, one or more flavoring compositions, one or more preservatives, tea solids, juices, cloud component, and mineral and non-mineral nutritional supplements.

39. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 38, wherein the calcium source comprises calcium chloride, calcium hydroxide and monocalcium phosphate.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 38, wherein the calcium source comprises calcium chloride, monocalcium phosphate, and calcium carbonate.

42. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 38, wherein the calcium source comprises calcium chloride, calcium hydroxide, calcium carbonate and monocalcium phosphate.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 3843, wherein the one or more edibles edible acids are chosen from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, lactic acid, malic acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, and mixtures thereof.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 3844, wherein the artificial sweetener is chosen from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame potassium, neotame, alitame, sodium saccharin, calcium saccharin, sucralose, sodium cyclamate, calcium cyclamate, neohesperidin, dihydrochalcone, and mixtures thereof.

47. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 46, wherein the artificial sweetener comprises aspartame.

48. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 46, wherein the artificial sweetener comprises aspartame and acesulfame potassium.

49. (Currently Amended) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 38 further comprising the one or more preservatives.

50. (Currently Amended) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 49, wherein the one or more preservatives is chosen from the group consisting of sodium benzoate, calcium benzoate, potassium benzoate, sodium sorbate, calcium sorbate, potassium sorbate, ascorbic acid, SHMP, EDTA, BHA, BHT, TBHQ, dehydroacetic acid, dimethyldicarbonate, ethoxyquin, heptylparaben, and combinations thereof.

51. (Currently Amended) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 38 further comprising the one or more flavor compositions.

52. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 51, wherein the flavor composition comprises cola flavor.

53. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 51, wherein the flavor composition comprises cola flavor and lemon flavor.

54. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 51, wherein the flavor composition comprises a fruit flavor.

55. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 51, wherein the flavor composition comprises a tea flavor.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Original) A full strength beverage produced by dissolving the calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate of claim 38 with water.

58. (Original) The full strength beverage of claim 57 comprising one part calcium-supplemented beverage concentrate and five parts water.

59. (Original) The full strength beverage of claim 58, wherein the water is carbonated water.

60. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a stable, artificially-sweetened, calcium-supplemented full strength beverage which comprises forming a stabilized solution of a calcium source comprising calcium chloride, monocalcium phosphate, and at least one of calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate, and one or more edible acids in water and subsequently adding an artificial sweetener to the stabilized solution to form the beverage, wherein the beverage concentrate consists essentially of water, the calcium source, the one or more edible acids, the artificial sweetener and optionally, caffeine, caramel, carbonation, coloring agents or dyes, antifoam, emulsifiers, one or more flavoring compositions, one or more preservatives, tea solids, juices, cloud component, and mineral and non-mineral nutritional supplements.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the one or more edible acids are chosen from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, lactic acid, malic acid, maleic acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, ascorbic acid and mixtures thereof.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the artificial sweetener is chosen from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame potassium, neotame, alitame, sodium saccharin, calcium saccharin, sucralose, sodium cyclamate, calcium cyclamate, neohesperidin, dihydrochalcone, and mixtures thereof.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 60, where the stabilized solution further comprises the one or more preservatives dissolved in the solution prior to the addition of the artificial sweetener.

65. (Original) The method of claim 64, wherein the one or more preservatives is chosen from the group consisting of sodium benzoate, calcium benzoate, potassium benzoate, sodium sorbate, calcium sorbate, potassium sorbate, ascorbic acid, SHMP, EDTA, BHA, BHT, TBHQ, dehydroacetic acid, dimethyldicarbonate, ethoxyquin, heptylparaben, and combinations thereof.

66. (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein the stabilized solution further comprises acid-containing flavoring composition dissolved prior to the addition of the artificial sweetener.

67. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the acid-containing flavoring composition comprises a cola flavor.

68. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the acid-containing flavoring composition comprises a combination of cola flavor and lemon flavor.

69. (Original) The method of claim 66, wherein the acid-containing flavoring composition comprises a citrus flavor.

70. (Original) The method of claim 60, further comprising a step of adding an additional ingredient after the step of adding the artificial sweetener.

71. (Canceled)

72. (Currently Amended) A full strength beverage produced by the method of claim 60.

73. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a stable, artificially-sweetened calcium-supplemented full strength beverage which comprises:

- a) preparing a first solution or dispersion of a calcium source comprising calcium chloride, monocalcium phosphate, and at least one of calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate, and water;
- b) adding one or more edible acids to the first solution or dispersion to form a second solution wherein the calcium source and one or more edible acids are fully dissolved in solution;
- c) adding an artificial sweetener to the second solution to form a third solution wherein the calcium source, one or more edible acids and artificial sweetener are fully dissolved in solution; and
- d) optionally adding additional edible ingredients, thereby forming the full strength beverage, wherein the full strength beverage consists essentially of water, the calcium source, the one or more edible acids, the artificial sweetener and optionally, caffeine, caramel, carbonation, coloring agents or dyes, antifoam, emulsifiers, one or more flavoring compositions, one or more preservatives, tea solids, juices, cloud component, and mineral and non-mineral nutritional supplements.

74. (Canceled)

75. (Original) The method of claim 73, wherein the one or more edible acids are chosen from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, lactic acid,

malic acid, maleic acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

76. (Original) The method of claim 73, wherein the artificial sweetener is chosen from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame potassium, neotame, alitame, sodium saccharin, calcium saccharin, sucralose, sodium cyclamate, calcium cyclamate, neohesperidin, dihydrochalcone, and mixtures thereof.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of dissolving one or more preservatives to the second solution such that the one or more preservatives, calcium source, and one or more edible acids are fully dissolved in the second solution prior to conducting step (c).

78. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the preservative is chosen from the group consisting of sodium benzoate, calcium benzoate, potassium benzoate, sodium sorbate, calcium sorbate, potassium sorbate, SHMP, EDTA, BHA, BHT, TBHQ, dehydroacetic acid, ascorbic acid, dimethyldicarbonate, ethoxyquin, heptylparaben, and combinations thereof.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73 further comprising the step of dissolving one or more acid-containing flavoring compositions in the second solution such that the one or more acid-containing flavoring compositions, calcium source, and one or more edible acids are fully dissolved in the second solution prior to conducting step (c).

80. (Original) The method of claim 79, wherein the one or more acid containing flavoring composition comprises a cola flavor.

81. (Original) The method of claim 79, wherein the one or more acid-containing flavoring composition comprises cola flavor and lemon flavor.

82. (Original) The method of claim 79, wherein the one or more acid-containing flavoring composition comprises a citrus flavor.

83. (Canceled)

84. (Canceled)

85. (Previously Presented) A full strength beverage produced by the method of claim 73.

86. (Currently Amended) A calcium-supplemented beverage composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a calcium source comprising calcium chloride, monocalcium phosphate and at least one calcium salt selected from the group consisting of calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate, an artificial sweetener, one or more edible acids, water, and optionally, caffeine, caramel, carbonation, coloring agents or dyes, antifoam, emulsifiers, one or more flavoring compositions, one or more preservatives, tea solids, juices, cloud component, and mineral and non-mineral nutritional supplements.

87. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 86, wherein the calcium source comprises calcium chloride, calcium hydroxide and monocalcium phosphate.

88. (Canceled)

89. (Previously Presented) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 86, wherein the calcium source comprises calcium chloride, monocalcium phosphate, and calcium carbonate.

90. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 86, wherein the calcium source comprises calcium chloride, calcium hydroxide, calcium carbonate and monocalcium phosphate.

91. (Canceled)

92. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim ~~86~~94, wherein the one or more edible acids are chosen from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, lactic acid, malic acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, and mixtures thereof.

93. (Canceled)

94. (Currently Amended) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim ~~86~~93, wherein the artificial sweetener is chosen from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame, potassium, neotame, alitame, sodium saccharin, calcium saccharin, sucralose, sodium cyclamate, calcium cyclamate, neohesperidin, dihydrochalcone, and mixtures thereof.

95. (Currently Amended) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 86 further comprising the one or more preservatives.

96. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 95, wherein the one or more preservatives is chosen from the group consisting of sodium benzoate, calcium benzoate, potassium benzoate, sodium sorbate, calcium sorbate, potassium sorbate, ascorbic acid, SHMP, EDTA, BHA, BHT, TBHQ, dehydroacetic acid, dimethyldicarbonate, ethoxyquin, heptylparaben, and combinations thereof.

97. (Currently Amended) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 86 further comprising the one or more flavor combinations.

98. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 97, wherein the flavor composition comprises cola flavor.

99. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 97, wherein the flavor composition comprises cola flavor and lemon flavor.

100. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 97, wherein the flavor composition comprises a fruit flavor.

101. (Original) The calcium-supplemented beverage of claim 97, wherein the flavor composition comprises a tea flavor.

102. (Canceled)